

[DA-DOST-UPS JOINT DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 1, S. 1996, June 13, 1996]

INTEGRATING AND COORDINATING THE PRODUCTION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) VACCINE IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

WHEREAS, as a result of the large scale epidemic of FMD among livestock pigs, cattle and carabaos with an incidence of 99% particularly in pigs, President Ramos issued Executive Order No. 251, "Declaring the Island of Luzon as a Calamity Area as a Result of the Foot and Mouth Epidemic, Rationalizing Public Safety Measures for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease in the Country and Appropriating Funds Therefore";

WHEREAS, the epidemic has resulted in economic losses amounting to P2 billion;

WHEREAS, one of the recommended procedures to prevent and control the disease, is to vaccinate all the susceptible livestock against the disease;

WHEREAS, as a result of the outbreak the country has to import US\$3.1 million worth of foreign made FMD vaccines since these cannot be produced in the country at present;

WHEREAS, as a result of the FMD epidemic and the sudden increased demand for the supply of the FMD vaccines, there was a shortage of the foreign made vaccines.

WHEREAS, because of the outbreak, some legislators of the Congress of the Philippines inquired why in spite of the billions of pesos being allocated to the Departments of Agriculture, and Science and Technology, the FMD vaccine is not being produced in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, there are two (2) proposals for the production of FMD vaccines in the Philippines: one, is the development and pilot production of the vaccine under the auspices of the Department of Science and Technology by Dr. Luciano Talens through the Balik Scientist Program; the second, is the Commercial Production of Monovalent FMD Vaccine in the Philippines by the College of Veterinary Medicine, UPLB, through Dean Mauro F. Manuel;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to fast track the local production of the FMD vaccine which should be of international quality and lower in price than the imported vaccines;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the respective heads of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology and the University of the Philippines System, do hereby order the formation of a Technical Integrating and Coordinating